GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4944
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
EXPLOITATION OF BHARTIYA MAZDOOR IN SHARJAH
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Sharjah Gaye 22 Bhartiya Mazdooron Ki Durdasha` appearing in the Delhi edition of `Nav Bharat Times` dated February 1, 2000;

(b) whether the Government has enquired/propose to enquire into the matter after the publication of this news-item;

(c) whether any other similar case has come to the notice of the Government regarding plight and exploitation of the Indian labourers during the last three years, who have gone abroad for earning their livelihood;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether each and every case has been enquired into;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): As per the information received from Consulate General of India, Dubai, 22 workers taken to UAE by Indian partner of a firm had started working since June, 1999, but due to some problem between the Indian partner and the sponsor, visas were not stamped and the workers stopped work after about three months. On intervention by the CGI, Dubai, the labour department has agreed to provide necessary assistance in facilitating stamping of the visas. The sponsor has also agreed to get temporary work permit processed. Alternate jobs have since been located for them and formalities for transfer of visas to new employers are under process. The workers currently housed in a flat in Sharjah are reported to be in good health. The Indian partner had provided food etc. to them for some time. Now, the Indian association is extending necessary help. The Indian partner who had taken the workers to UAE was reported to be under police custody in Sharjah in some other case.

(c) to (g): Sporadic complaints regarding plight and exploitation of the Indian workers deployed by foreign employers are received either from the workers or from their relatives. On receipt of such complaints, the matter is taken up with the concerned Indian Missions who take up the matter with the employers for redressal of the problems of the workers. Local recruiting agents through whom these workers were deployed are also simultaneously directed to settle the complaints/grievances of the workers in consultation with the foreign employers.